

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, UK

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE: NEC STATEMENT ON SPAIN

SUMMARY - FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN, SPEAKING FOR NEC, CONDEMNED RECENT EXECUTION OF SPANISH PRISONERS AND SPANISH DICTATORSHIP WHILE EXPRESSING LABOR MOVEMENT'S SOLIDARITY WITH SPANISH PEOPLE. LABOR LEADER JACK JONES FOLLOWED CALLAGHAN AND CALLED FOR BOYCOTT OF SPANISH GOODS, TRANSPORT AND TOURS. CONFERENCE ENDORSED NEC STATEMENT UNANIMOUSLY. END SUMMARY.

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1. OPENING SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENT OF LABOR PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) DEALT WITH SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S SEPTEMBER 27 EXECUTION OF FIVE PRISONERS CONVICTED OF TERRORISM AND WAS MADE BY FOREIGN SECRETARY JAMES CALLAGHAN. FONSEC REVIEWED GOVERNMENT'S UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CLEMENCY FOR PRISONERS AND SCORNEED JUDICIAL PROCESS WHICH CONVICTED THEM. HE SAID LABOR GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE "NO AID AND NO COMFORT TO THE EXISTING REGIME" IN SPAIN AND, MOREOVER, WILL DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO ENSURE SPANISH TIES WITH OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE NOT STRENGTHENED. CALLAGHAN FORCEFULLY CONDEMNED TERRORISM, BUT STRESSED THAT LABOR ALSO RECOGNIZES VIOLENCE INHERENT IN FASCIST REGIME. LABOR, HE AFFIRMED, OPPOSES BOTH KINDS OF VIOLENCE. CALLAGHAN ALSO CHARACTERIZED SPAIN AS COUNTRY ON MOVE AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT NEW SPAIN WILL EMERGE WHICH WILL BE FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTNER OF WESTERN DEMOCRACIES. IN MEANTIME, HE SAID, PARTY GOVERNMENT AND TUC WILL BE WORKING WITH SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION GROUPS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH SPANISH PEOPLE.

2. TRANSOORT UNION (TGWU) LEADER JACK JONES FOLLOWED CALLAGHAN SPEAKING AS CHAIRMAN OF TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE, AND ASSOCIATED CONFERENCE AND TUC WITH NEC STATEMENT. MAJORITY OF SPANISH PEOPLE, JONES SAID, DETEST BRUTAL, CORRUPT FRANCO REGIME WHICH IS KEPT IN POWER BY ARMY AND SECRET POLICE WHO USE COERCION AND REPRESSION OF TRADE UNIONS TO CRUSH LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF SPANISH PEOPLE. HE ALSO LIKENED CURRENT GOVERNMENT TO SPANISH INQUISITION. JONES THEN ASKED THAT SPANISH SHIPS, AIRCRAFT AND TRUCKS BE BLACK-LISTED BY UNIONS AND THAT PUBLIC BOYCOTT SPANISH GOODS AND TOURS. JONES, WHO FOUGHT ON REOUBRICAN SIDE IN CIVIL WAR, CLOSED WITH WORDS: "THEY SHALL NOT PASS."

3. BOTH STATEMENTS WERE WARMLY APPLAUDED, AND CONFERENCE UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED NEC STATEMENT.

4. COMMENT: NEC STATEMENT FAITHFULLY REPRESENTS PRE-UNCLASSIFIED

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VAILING SENTIMENT AT CONFERENCE AND AMONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITH WHOM EMBOFF HAS SPOKEN. STATEMENT ALSO PREEMPTED EMERGENCY RESOLUTION FROM CONFERENCE FLOOR WHICH PROBABLY WOULD HAVE CALLED FOR GOVERNMENT TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. END COMMENT.

RICHARDSON

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